



# September 2010

Play and Learn at Annapolis  
580 Taylor Avenue, B1 ~ Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
Phone: 410-263-4029 ~ Fax: 410-263-4432 ~ Email: BOBrian@playcenters.org  
Visit us at [www.playandlearnmaryland.org](http://www.playandlearnmaryland.org) ~ Tax ID: 52-1259566



## **From the Director**

Welcome to the super month of September! We are excited to begin another award-winning school year and look forward to the opportunity to enrich the lives of your children.

We are excited to offer a new session of Music Expressions for ages two through kindergarten. Ms. Judy, the instructor, teaches the children a variety of musical skills and concepts that relate to a weekly theme. Participation in the Music Expression program is optional and requires an additional small weekly fee. Please contact Ms. Bonnie for details.

Jump Bunch will begin a new season this school year beginning on Thursday, September 2nd, for children ages two through kindergarten. The instructor focuses primarily on physical education, large motor skills, and games. Participation is optional and there is a separate weekly fee for this program. Please contact Ms. Bonnie for details on how to register for this program.

Please mark your calendars for our annual fall field trip to Papa John's Pumpkin Farm on Tuesday, October 12th. Parents are always welcome to attend! Permission slips will be distributed in early October.

Finally, please be reminded that all lunches must be removed from your child's lunch box, labeled, and placed in the appropriate refrigerator. Markers and masking tape are available in the cabinet next to the refrigerator. Thank you in advance for your cooperation!

Enjoy the final days of summer!

Ms. Bonnie, Ms. Yolanda and Super Star Staff

## **Parents' Corner**

### **Play in the Early Years: Key to School Success** (an excerpt)

There is a well-established consensus among early childhood professionals that play is an essential element of developmentally appropriate, high-quality, early education programs.

- ◆ Play is not a break from the curriculum; play is the best way to implement the curriculum.
- ◆ A growing body of research shows that every competency important to school success is enhanced by play. For example, high-quality pretend play is related to children's abilities to begin to think abstractly and to take the perspectives of others. Connections between the complexity of children's pretend play and early literacy, mathematical thinking, and problem-solving are documented in research literature.
- ◆ For example, through dramatic play with objects, people, and imagined situations, children develop their oral language skills and capacity for narrative, or "thinking in stories." Oral language skills and narrative form the foundation for reading comprehension, the ability to produce coherent writing, and the ability to understand subjects such as history, social studies, and science.
- ◆ Teachers use keen observation to assess and support children's learning and development through play.
- ◆ Teachers facilitate play through responsive interactions with children, based on an understanding of how play contributes to academic and social learning.

<http://www.4children.org/images/pdf/play07.pdf>

### **Important Dates**

*(See Calendar for more information)*

**September 6 - Labor Day - Center Closed**

Parents -

Please check for the posted Parent Resource List, as well as the Parent Resource Binder. We hope you find this information to be useful!